CLAIMS:

1.   An image processing unit (100) for processing an image, the image processing unit comprising:

-          an input (102) for receiving the image,

-          a processor (106) for processing the image, the processor being arranged to substitute an original object residing at object co-ordinates in the image by a substitute object, and

-          an output (108) for outputting the processed image,

characterized in that the processor (106) is further arranged to search the image for the presence of the original object on the basis of a predetermined appearance and to determine the object co-ordinates of the original object, if present.

2.   An image processing unit as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the predetermined appearance is a shape.

3.   An image processing unit (100) as claimed in Claim 1, comprising a selection unit (110) to enable a user to select the predetermined appearance from a number of available appearances.

4.   An image processing unit (100) as claimed in Claim 1, comprising a selection unit (114) to enable a user to select the substitute object from a number of available objects.

5.   An image processing unit (100) as claimed in Claim 1, being arranged to receive a series of consecutive images and wherein the processor is arranged to process each of the images.

6.   An image processing unit (100) as claimed in Claim 5, wherein the processor (106) is arranged to determine a track of the original object over a number of the series of images and to decide to substitute the original object by the substitute only if such track can be determined.

7.   An image display apparatus (200) comprising,

-           a receiver (202) for the reception of a signal representing an image,

-           an image processing unit (202, 100) as claimed in any of the Claim 1 to 6, and

5   -   a display device (206) for displaying the processed image.

8.   A method of processing an image, the method comprising the steps of

-           receiving the image,

-           processing the image, including substituting an original object residing at

10   object co-ordinates in the image by a substitute object, and

-           outputting the processed image,

characterized in that the step of processing the image further includes searching the image for

the presence of the original object on the basis of a predetermined appearance and

determining the object co-ordinates of the original object, if present.